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NEWS UPDATE

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City Urges Prompt Demolition of the Polycraft Building to Win the Race Against an Uncontrolled Collapse

Tuesday, September 2, 2003

On Saturday afternoon, August 30, the elevator shaft of the Polycraft building fell through the roof and down through the floor below, causing a partial collapse of the structure. City Fire Department and Police were immediately on the scene to assess the damage and protect the public from possible fallout and additional collapse.

With continued collapse likely, City officials remain firm in their opinions that the controlled demolition of the Polycraft building will have the least negative impact on the adjacent Mitchell and Surratt buildings and pose the least safety hazard to the general public. And with the timing of the collapse increasingly imminent, City officials worked continuously throughout the weekend to encourage the speedy implementation of a demolition plan. Building Code Administrator Steve Landrith met with structural engineer Mark Peters to assess the building's current condition. City Police remained at the site as a safety precaution while a pre-demolition fence was constructed around the Polycraft building and adjacent buildings. Mr. Landrith also met with Vaughn Excavating, the demolition firm contracted by the Hughes, to arrange for the delivery of demolition equipment. (This equipment is expected to be in place today in preparation for the impending demolition.)

Building Code Administrator Landrith expects to receive a demolition plan shortly and will quickly begin the review process upon receipt. He will issue the demolition permit as soon as the review is complete. The demolition is expected to take one to two weeks. Mr. Landrith will monitor the site throughout the demolition process.

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